BPC Petrol Pump, Opp. Bangla Sahib Gurudwara

80. Talkatora Road (Near Udhyan Marg Bus Terminal)

81. Mother Dairy Bihari Market, Kali Bari

82. Chuna Mandi, Paharganj

83. Laddu Ghatti, Paharganj

84. Mother Dairy, Basant Road

85. Mother Dairy, Minto Road, Govt. Press.

86. Rouse Avenue, Main Road (D-5)

87. Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

88. Alipore (West Bengal)

89. Viramgam (Gujarat)

90. Pilar (Goa)

Extinction of Great Indian Bustard

1594. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the great Indian bustard visually found in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons for its extinction; and

(c) if so steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir. However, the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is an endangered species and occurs only in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(b) The major threats to the GIB population are habitat deterioration, disturbances due to growth of other animal populations like balack buck and grazing by sheep and changing cropping practices etc.

(c) the steps taken to protect the species and its habitat include:

(i) A network of national park and 6 sanctuaries have been established in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Gujarat which are known habitats of the bird.

(ii) Central assistance is given to the States whenever requested for improved management of these protected areas is received.

(iii) The GIB is included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby receiving highest legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation.

(iv) India is signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which regulates the International trade in endangered species. This species is placed in Appendix I of the CITES.

Indo-UK Bilateral Relations

1595. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to promote Indo-UK bilateral ties;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any official level discussions are proposed to be organised in the near future for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Prime Minister paid a visit to UK from 13-16 March 1994, the first Prime Ministerial visit from India since 1985. The visit marked a new era of relations between India and the UK, reinforcing trends towards a long term partnership based on mutual confidence and trust, shared values and mutual benefits. Prime Minister's interaction with British leaders provided basis for a broad consensus in